

Jake Jackowski
Testimony in Support of HB5283

Honorable Education Committee Members,

My name is Jake Jackowski and I am an elementary school teacher in Hartford Connecticut. I would like to voice my support for House Bill 5283. More resources means an alleviation of the burdens born by educators and administrators: staffing shortages, high class sizes, poor technology infrastructures, and insufficient support for special education and multilingual learners. While my classroom has been fortunate enough to receive many devices, my smartboard and the smartboards of other teachers in our school have had many technical problems. Moreover, tech support has been backlogged with helping us

Additionally, the provisions in this bill make funding student centered and help ensure they receive the supports they need to thrive. Almost half of my students are multilingual learners and would benefit immensely from increased funding and resources.

In the wake of the pandemic and the ensuing social-emotional and educational effects, now is the right time to ensure all students have funding that follows them, no matter what zip code their school is in. Mental health support matters. A former student of mine reached out to let me know that she was having a tough time at school, that she was constantly very sad, and that the transition to her new school was hard. I ask for your support of House Bill 5283 to help ensure students like my former student have the mental health and social emotional support they need.

It's time to put a dent in the 713 million dollar racial funding gap and maintain our social commitment to racial equity. This bill would set us on a path to further equity in our state.

I know that there are many worthy causes which merit using our state's budget surplus. Of all of the causes, investing in our children will yield dividends down the line. Our students, parents, teachers, and administrators will thank you for your investment in our future. I ask you to support HB 5283. Thank you very much for your time and all you do to help our students.